

June 27, 2007

USDA Deputy Under Secretary Mast Honors San Juan Conservation District During Its 60th Anniversary and Billion-Acre Day

Lakewood, CO – The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Gary Mast honored the San Juan Conservation District (SJCD) during their 60th Anniversary and Billion-Acre Day held in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, on June 11, 2007.

“I congratulate the San Juan Conservation District on their 60th Anniversary and the celebration of its Billion-Acre day,” Mast said. “This day represents a long history of the district doing good things and making great strides toward the management and restoration of our land, air, and water resources.”

On June 9, 1947, one billion acres of land had been placed under the jurisdiction of soil conservation districts. This achievement came just one decade after President Roosevelt asked the states to give farmers and ranchers the authority to establish such districts, thus, giving birth to a new Colorado law called the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts.

Out of this law, the San Juan Soil Conservation District was chartered and since then, its district and other districts throughout the United States have worked diligently to protect not only soil, but water and other natural resources.

The ceremony was attended by the eight volunteer board members of the San Juan Conservation District, the Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, the President of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the State Conservationist of Colorado NRCS, representatives from Senator Ken Salazar’s Office, and a host of other distinguished guests.

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